Alberta Crop Report

Crop Conditions as of July 11, 2017

Hot dry weather settled in across most of the province since the start of July, with parts of the Southern Region experiencing high temperatures, with day time temperatures topping 30°C for over a week. Below is a map of Alberta showing the average daily temperature over the past 15 days, relative to the long term normal. Provincially, crop condition ratings have declined five per cent from a week ago to 70 per cent rated as good to excellent, compared with the 5 year (2012-2016) average of 73 per cent (See Table 1). This is mainly attributed to 11 and six per cent decline in crop conditions for the Southern and Central Region, respectively. Also, crop conditions in the North West and Peace Regions remained low due to the wet spring and excessive moisture.

Province wide, soil moisture reserves have decreased significantly and remained highly variable. Surface soil moisture ratings (sub-surface soil moisture are shown in brackets) are rated 13 (14) per cent poor, 17 (13) per cent fair, 34 (38) per cent good, 25 (25) per cent excellent and 11 (10) per cent excessive.

Pasture and tame hay ratings declined 13 and 12 percentage points, respectively, with 68 per cent now rated as good to excellent. First cut dryland hay is 64 per cent complete across the province, with an estimated yield of 1.8 tons per acre (higher than the 5-year average of 1.5 tons per acre) and quality rated as 91 per cent good to excellent. For irrigated hay, it is 76 per cent complete, with yield reported at 2.8 tons per acre (compared with the 5-year average of 2.4 tons per acre) and quality rated as 94 per cent good to excellent.

Table 1: Regional Crop Conditions Ratings as of July 11, 2017

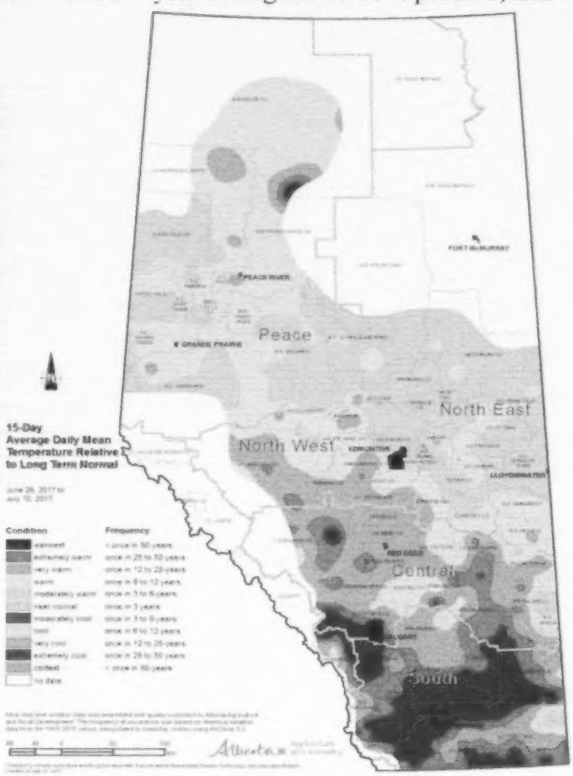
	% Rated in Good to Excellent Condition					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Average
Spring Wheat	63.5%	76.7%	84.9%	59.6%	73.1%	73.3%
Durum Wheat	0.6125	0.692	---	---	---	62.4%
Barley	61.7%	77.3%	82.3%	55.3%	65.8%	70.5%
Oats	61.5%	75.7%	82.3%	58.3%	68.5%	70.7%
Winter Wheat	68.1%	64.3%	100.0%	---	---	68.3%
Canola	60.7%	70.1%	79.6%	60.5%	60.8%	68.2%
Dry Peas	62.9%	78.5%	86.5%	60.2%	77.7%	72.1%
Mustard	52.3%	44.0%	---	---	---	49.8%
Flax	57.1%	63.8%	100.0%	---	---	64.9%
Potatoes	91.4%	100.0%	---	---	---	91.9%
Lentils	62.0%	47.8%	90.0%	---	---	60.1%
Alberta	**62.8%**	**74.2%**	**82.4%**	**59.3%**	**66.8%**	**70.3%**
Last Week	**73.6%**	**79.7%**	**83.9%**	**59.2%**	**67.6%**	**75.2%**
5-yr average	**75.8%**	**68.1%**	**77.8%**	**75.7%**	**67.3%**	**73.3%**

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Pasture Condition Ratings as of July 11, 2017

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
South	14.5%	43.1%	39.9%	2.5%
Central	9.8%	38.9%	46.7%	4.6%
N East	0.8%	2.7%	40.0%	56.5%
N West	0.0%	6.1%	41.1%	52.9%
Peace	0.8%	21.5%	54.2%	23.5%
Alberta	**6.6%**	**25.3%**	**43.5%**	**24.6%**
Last Week	**1.6%**	**17.4%**	**51.9%**	**29.1%**
5-yr average	**13.6%**	**20.7%**	**47.5%**	**18.1%**

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Visit weatherdata.ca for additional maps and meteorological data

Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, staff of AFSC and the Alberta Ag-Info Centre for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program.

The precipitation map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section.

Growing Forward 2

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REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS:

The 2017 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Hot, dry and windy weather over the past week have advanced crops rapidly, but depleted soil moisture and caused some signs of stress, especially for crops in the flowering stage of development.
- Spring cereals are mainly in the flowering stage of development, as well as 81 per cent of canola. Almost two thirds of pulses are in the flowering stage and another third is podding.
- Overall, conditions of dryland crops are declining, while irrigated crops are benefitting from the warmer temperatures. Crop condition ratings are lower than the 5-year averages for all crops, except for potatoes and sugar beets. About 60 to 63 per cent of spring wheat, barley, canola and most pulses are in good to excellent condition.
- Surface soil moisture are rated as 27 per cent good to excellent, down 19 per cent from a week ago.
- First cut haying is underway, with 96 per cent of irrigated and 89 per cent of dryland complete. Dryland and irrigated yields are estimated, respectively at 1.3 (compared to the 5-year average of 1.7) and 3.2 (compared to the 5-year average of 2.5) tons per acre. Hay quality is above the 5-year averages for both irrigated and dryland.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- Lack of moisture and heat have started to affect both the quality and yield of crops and grasses. Hail damage has been reported in some areas. Spring cereals are in the head emergence stage of development, while about five per cent of canola is podding and another 83 per cent flowering. More than 70 per cent of pulses are in flower.
- Crop condition ratings for all crops in the Region are higher than the 5-year averages. More than 68 per cent of cereals, canola and pulses, as well as 100 per cent of potatoes are reported in good to excellent condition.
- Surface soil moisture dropped 13 per cent to 70 per cent rated as good to excellent, but still higher than the 5-year average of 67 per cent, with almost one per cent excessive.
- About 56 per cent of dryland and 50 per cent of irrigated haying is complete. Dryland and irrigated yields are estimated, respectively at 1.7 (compared to the 5-year average of 1.7) and 2.2 (compared to the 5-year average of 2.4) tons per acre. For both irrigated and dryland, hay quality is above the 5-year averages.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Hot, dry weather over the past week was beneficial for crop development and haying operations.
- Spring cereals are mostly in the booting stage of development, while about two per cent of canola is podding and another 70 per cent flowering. Almost 58 per cent of dry peas are in flower, with about 19 per cent podding.
- Crop condition ratings for all crops in the Region are higher than the 5-year averages. More than 80 per cent of cereals, canola and pulses are reported in good to excellent condition.
- Surface soil moisture declined two per cent to 65 per cent rated good to excellent, with 30 per cent excessive.
- Nearly 46 per cent of dryland haying is complete, with yield at 2.0 tons per acre, compared to the 5-year average of 1.1 tons per acre. Quality is rated at 98 per cent good to excellent quality, higher than the 5-year average.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Crops are progressing rapidly, due to hot sunny days. Spring cereals are mostly in the booting stage of development, while about 40 per cent of canola is in the 7-12 node stage and another 60 per cent flowering. About 32 per cent of dry peas are in the 7-12 node stage, with 68 per cent in flower.
- Regionally, between 55 to 60 per cent of cereals, canola and pulses are in good to excellent condition, lower than the 5-year averages for all crops.
- Surface soil moisture increased 10 per cent to 74 per cent good to excellent, with 23 per cent excessive.
- About 53 per cent of dryland haying is complete, with the yield at 3.4 tons per acre, compared to the 5-year average of 1.7 tons per acre. Quality is rated at 93 per cent good to excellent, higher than the 5-year average.

Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- Some light and spotty rain showers over the past week was reported. However, some areas are in need of rain, as crops have started to deteriorate. Regionally, more than 61 per cent of barley, oats and canola and more than 73 per cent of spring wheat and dry peas are in good to excellent condition. .
- Spring cereals are mostly in the early booting stage of development, while about 45 per cent of canola is in the 7-12 node stage and another 55 per cent flowering. About 61 per cent of dry peas are in the flowering stage, with 39 per cent in the 7-12 node.
- Surface soil moisture is rated at 82 per cent good to excellent, with six per cent excessive.
- About 65 per cent of dryland haying is complete, with the yield of 1.2 tons per acre, compared to the 5-year average of 1.4 tons per acre. Quality is rated at 85 per cent good to excellent, higher than the 5-year average.

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